

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image forming optical system comprises, in order from an object side, a first positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward an object side, an aperture stop, a second positive meniscus lens having a convex surface directed toward the object side and a negative lens. At least one of surfaces of the negative lens is aspherical and the following condition is satisfied:

$$-2.0 < \Phi_m / \Phi_p < 0$$

$$-2.0 < (r_{1r} + r_{2f}) / (r_{1r} - r_{2f}) < 1.0$$

10 where Φ_m represents the power of the negative lens at the position of the maximum light height and Φ_p represents the power of the negative lens at the position of the near axis, r_{1r} represents the radius of curvature of the first lens at the image side and r_{2f} is the radius of curvature of the second lens at the object side.